

To the Right Honourable, and Honourable, the Commissioners, appointed by Act of Parliament, for providing a Publick Reward for such Person, or or Persons, that shall find the Longitude at Sea. *The humble Petition of Robert Browne,*

Sheweth,

x **T**HAT you Petitioner is informed, that some Persons have lately offered Methods for finding the Longitude at Sea, by Cœlestial Observations; which Methods seem to be grounded on the Problems your Petitioner constructed about 20 Years ago, and have been in Print now 14 Years, as will appear, by being annexed to this Petition: Your Petitioner, therefore, humbly prays, That Recourse may be had thereunto, and that this Honourable Assembly, will please to consider the Application, Pains, Charge, Projections, and Improvements of your Petitioner, which he proposes preferable to all others, for this Purpose. That no other Person be permitted to survive
what

what your Petitioner has done so long since;
and that your Petitioner may have Encouragement,
as this Honourable Assembly shall think fit.

And your Petitioner, as in Duty bound,
shall ever pray.

In the *Christmas* Holidays, 1717. I had the favour to
Discourse with the Right Honourable, the Earl *Stanhope*, in
his Chamber, about some Secret Services I had to offer, for
the Benefit of his late Majesty, and the Government. And
also, about the *Longitude*; I shew'd his Lordship a Collection
of some Things which his Lordship inspected, and said

Again: with humble submission I offer, that since my printing the foregoing Pages in *Feb.* last 1728. I fix'd a New Mural Arch upwards of Nine Foot Radius; and have since made frequent Observations to ascertain what I did before with my Seven Foot Arch; and find little difference, and am now Correcting and Ascertaining a Catalogue of above 3000 fixed Stars, Sun, Moon and Planets; observed by myself; with Demonstration of the Truth of these Performances, which I Propose either Preferable, or not Inferiour to all others. I have taken much Pains to Correct the Tables of the Moon, but find such deficiencies in the Places of the fixed Stars as they now appear in Publick; that I think it fruitless to spend more Time about the Tables of the Moon, before I have Accomodated a true Catalogue of the fixed Stars, to adjust the Observations; and as to Methods for Practice in finding the *Longitude*, there is no defect in those I have printed, and many more I could easily construct if the Tables were perfect, which I am attempting to Correct; when my Catalogue is corrected, now in great forwardness; besides the Methods before inserted I have Contrived to fix two Telescopes upon an Arch, to take Angles to about 10 Degrees with one Eye-piece, and at one Sight, in order frequently to observe the distance of the Moon from eminent Stars, and likewise the Moon and Stars from the Horizon at that Distance, and to supply the difficulty of waiting for Appulses, for which Purpose I have prepared a sliding Brass Scale for that and other Purposes, and to be applied in the Tube of a Ten Foot Telescope, with Divisions to be seen in the Tube; to discover the Distance and Elevation of the Moon and any Star contained in the Apparure. But to proceed, to Apply these Things till the Stars and Moon are corrected, will be to little Purpose, my Time will not at once do both.

Your Petitioner therefore humbly Hopes he shall be Encouraged by this Honourable Society, to Perfect the Works he has now under his Hands. If others are doing the same Things, when compar'd together, will afford an opportunity to Ascertain each other; which is humbly submitted to your Honourable Consideration, by

Your most humble and
obedient Servant,

Robert Browne.

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